

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: August 13, 2004

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS  
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA 224) Project #: **V-O-04/14**

TO: James A. Jellison  
Natural Resource Specialist – TFO/Olympia

**Proposed Action:** Vegetation Management along the Paul-Allston No. 2, 500 kV, Napavine-Allston No. 1 500 kV, and the Longview-Chehalis No. 1 230 kV Transmission Line Corridor.

**Location:** The project area is located in Lewis and Cowlitz Counties, WA in BPA's Olympia Region. The project lines are located within a single transmission line corridor that runs from the cities of Chehalis to the North and Longview to the south.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

**Description of the Proposal:** BPA proposes to fall approximately 1300 Danger trees from the right of way fringes just outside of the transmission line easements. Danger trees are trees off of the right of way easement that can potentially interfere with the operation, maintenance, and reliability of the transmission lines. Legal right to perform the tree removal have been secured from the respective property owners. The project consists of multiple areas randomly spaced along the fringes of the right of way. The trees to be managed were evaluated and marked to identify which ones will be removed.

**Analysis:** A checklist was completed for this project in accordance with the requirements identified in the Bonneville Power Administrations Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285). The checklist evaluated the following areas:

## **Planning Steps:**

### **1. Identify facility and the vegetation management need.**

Approximately 1300 danger trees will be felled by using selective cutting. The stumps of immature trees that have the potential to re-sprout will be chemically treated to kill the root system of the tree. The project consists of multiple areas randomly spaced along the fringes of the Paul-Allston No. 2, 500 kV, Napavine-Allston No. 1 500 kV, and the Longview-Chehalis No. 1 230 kV Transmission Line Corridor. The trees to be managed were evaluated and marked to identify which ones will be removed.

## 2. Identify surrounding land use and landowners/managers and any mitigation.

The subject corridor traverses private, and public lands in Lewis and Cowlitz Counties, consisting of private timber company and WA DNR lands. No other federal and no tribal lands are involved.

Landowners will be contacted (letters, personal contact, door hangers, etc.) by BPA before and during the project. Any input received will be incorporated into the prescription/cut sheets.

## 3. Identify natural resources and any mitigation.

Section 3 of the checklist identifies the natural resources present in the area of the proposed work. Listed below are the resources present along with any applicable mitigation measures:

**Riparian Areas & Essential fish Habitat:** Includes all wetlands, streams, ponds, etc. meeting the definition of riparian habitat.

No riparian including any wetlands, streams, or ponds are located within 200 feet of any of the proposed cutting.

### **Drinking Water Supply:**

No drinking water or irrigation wells were identified within the area the work is to be performed.

### **T & E Species:**

An evaluation of a species list generated from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) website and other Services data sources related to Threatened and Endangered; listed, proposed, and candidate species and designated critical habitat potentially occurring in Lewis and Cowlitz Counties, Washington was conducted. No ESA listed species or designated critical habitat were found to be present along the project corridor. A determination of **No Effect** was made for all ESA listed species and designated critical habitat for the project.

### **Cultural Resources:**

The Cowlitz tribe does not know of any cultural sites along the transmission line ROW.

### **Cultural Resources Mitigation:**

If a site is discovered during the course of vegetation control, work will be halted in the vicinity and the Chehalis tribe, the BPA Environmental Specialist, and the BAP archeologist will be contacted.

## 4. Determine vegetation control and debris disposal methods.

Vegetation will be removed using manual and chemical methods. Debris will be disposed onsite using either chip, lop and scatter, or mulch techniques as described in Section 5 of the checklists.

## 5. Determine re-vegetation methods, if necessary.

The project involves cutting down mature trees and will have minimal impact to the understory vegetation. No revegetation methods will be applied.

**6. Determine monitoring needs.**

The entire project will be inspected during the work period. Additionally the line will be patrolled annually after treatment to monitor the effectiveness of the treatment and to identify any environmental issues associated with the project.

**7. Prepare appropriate environmental documentation.**

**Findings:** This Supplement Analysis finds that 1) the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285) and ROD, and; 2) there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. This Supplement Analysis also finds the proposed actions will not affect threatened or endangered species. Therefore, no further NEPA or ESA documentation is required.

/s/ James Meyer for  
 Greg P. Tippetts  
 Environmental Physical Scientist

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney  
 Thomas C. McKinney  
 NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 8/13/2004

Attachment

cc:

L. Croff – KEC-4  
 T. McKinney – KEC-4  
 J. Meyer – KEP-4  
 J. Sharpe – KEPR-4  
 G. Tippetts – KEPR/Olympia  
 P. Key – LC-7  
 J. Hilliard Creecy – T-DITT2  
 K. Rodd – TF/DOB-1  
 D. Krauss – TFO/Olympia  
 T. Grover – TFOF/Olympia  
 Environmental File – KEC-4  
 Official File – KEP (EQ-14)

**Vegetation Management Checklist Paul-Allston Corridor**  
**Project #: V-O-04/14**

# 1. IDENTIFY FACILITY AND THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT NEED

## 1.1 Describe Right-of-way.

Corridor Name	Corridor Length & kV	Easement width	Miles of Treatment
Longview-Chehalis#3 Reference line, Paul- Allston#2, Longview- Chehalis#1 and Napavine-Allston#1 ADNO's 8130, 8144, 8142,8128	8 mi., 2-500, 2-230,	525, variable R/W widths	8 mi. starting at str. 8/3 +1700-1800 and str 11/3 to 19/1

### Right Of Way:

Right-of-Way – N/A

Tower Sites - N/A.

Access Road clearing - approximate miles – 0.0 miles N/A

Cutting Danger Trees- approximate 1231 DT's have been identified.

## 1.2 Describe the vegetation needing management.

### Vegetation Types:

Douglas fir

True Fir

Hemlock

Alder

Maple

Western Red Cedar

**1.3 List measures you will take to help promote low-growing plant communities. If promoting low-growing plants is not appropriate for this project, explain why.** The stumps of danger trees will be chemically treated of sprouting-types species will be carried out to ensure that the roots are killed.

## 1.4 Describe overall management scheme/schedule.

**Initial entry** – Danger trees identified with orange DT painted on the trees will be cut and the branches will be cut from the bole.

**Subsequent entries** – N/A

**Future cycles** – Every 5-10 years, a maintenance contract will be necessary to identify and cut the danger trees.

# 2. IDENTIFY SURROUNDING LAND USE AND LANDOWNERS/MANAGERS

## 2.1 List the types of landowners and land uses along your corridor.

### Landowners/Managers/Uses:

Rural Residential Property

Longview Fiber

Weyerhauser Timber Company

Washington State DNR

Pacific West Log Co.

- 2.2 Describe method for notifying right-of-way landowners and requesting information (i.e., door hanger, letter, phone call, e-mail, and/or meeting). Develop landowner mail list, if appropriate.**

Olympia Region will send letters to the property owners about 2-4 weeks prior to cutting the brush. Door to door contact will be made where it is warranted.

- 2.3 List the specific land owner/land use measures — determined from the handbook or through your consultations with the entities — that will be applied.**

N/A

- 2.4 Review any existing landowner agreements (e.g. tree/brush Permits or Agreements). List in table above any provisions that need to be followed and where they are located.**

N/A

- 2.5 List any known casual informal use of the right-of-way by non-owner publics. List any constraints or measure's to take due to the informal use.**

N/A

- 2.6 List other potentially affected people, agencies, or tribes (that are not landowners/managers) that need to be notified or coordinated with. Describe method of notification and coordination.**

I have contacted Mike Iyall, Cultural Resource Specialist for the Cowlitz tribe regarding his knowledge of any cultural sites on the Longview-Chehalis#3 easement. He is not aware of any cultural sites.

### **3. IDENTIFY NATURAL RESOURCES**

- 3.1 List any water resources (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) that may be impacted by vegetation control activities. For each water body describe the control methods and requirements or mitigation measures that will be used.**

No water resources, streams etc. are located within 200 feet of any of the DT's to be removed.

- 3.2 If planning to use herbicides, list locations of any known irrigation source, wells, or springs (landowners maybe able to provide this info if requested).**

N/A

- 3.3 List below the areas that have Threatened or Endangered Plant or Animal Species and the name of the species, and any special measures that need to be taken due to their presence. Attach any BAs, T&E maps, or letters from US Fish and Wildlife.**

An evaluation of T&E Species was completed for the project and a determination of **no effect** was made.

- 3.4 List any other measures to be taken for enhancing wildlife habitat or protecting species.**

N/A

- 3.5 List any visually sensitive areas and the measures to be taken at these areas.**

N/A

**3.6 List areas with cultural resources and the measures to be taken in those areas.**

Span		Describe sensitivity	Method/mitigation measures
From	To		
8/3+1 500 11/3	1600  19/1	Cultural Sites	The Cowlitz Tribe does not know of any cultural sites on this transmission line corridor. If a site is discovered during the course of vegetation control, work will be halted in the vicinity and the local tribe will be contacted as well as the BPA Environmental Specialist.

**3.7 List areas with steep slopes or potential erosion areas and the measure and methods to be applied in those areas.**

N/A

**3.8 List areas of spanned canyons and the type of cutting needed.**

N/A

**4. DETERMINE VEGETATION CONTROL METHODS**

**4.1 List Methods that will be used in areas not previously addressed in steps above.**

Span		Methods, including herbicide active ingredient, trade name, application technique
To	From	
11/3	19/1	For non-sensitive areas (spans) cut stump treatment with 25% Garlon 4/Tahoe 4E and 75% Forest Crop Oil (FCO). 50/50 % mixture of Arsenal or Garlon 3A/Tahoe 3A and water for stump treatment in the non-T&E listed creek riparian zones.

**5. DETERMINE DEBRIS DISPOSAL AND REVEGETATION**

**5.1 Describe the debris disposal methods to be used and any special considerations.**

**Debris Disposal:**

**Chip** (Mechanical brush disposal unit cuts brush into chips 4 in. or less in diameter, and spread over ROW, piled on ROW, or trucked off site. Trunks too large for the chipper are limbed and the limbs chipped. Trunks are placed in rows along the edge of the right-of-way or scattered, as the situation requires.)

**Lop and Scatter** (Branches of a fallen tree are cut off (lopped) by ax or chainsaw, so the tree trunk lies flat on the ground. The trunks are occasionally cut in 1-to-2-m (4-to-8-ft.) lengths. The cut branches and trunks are then scattered on the ground, laid flat, and left to decompose.)

**Mulch** (Mulching is a debris treatment that falls between chipping and lop-and-scatter. The debris is cut into 1-to-2-ft. lengths, scattered on the right-of-way and left to decompose. This method is used when terrain and conditions do not allow the use of mechanical chipping equipment.)

**5.2 List areas of reseeding or replanting (those areas not already described in steps 1, 2, or 3).**

N/A

**5.3 If not using native seed/plants, describe why.**

N/A

**5.4 Describe timing and any follow-up that will need to take place to ensure germination/success of seeding/planting.**

N/A

**6. DETERMINE MONITORING NEEDS**

**6.1 Describe the follow-up/monitoring cycle that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the vegetation control methods used.**

An initial inspection of the stump treatment of the DT will be evaluated. Stump treatment of all the hardwood trees will be required except the stumps of Red Alder greater than 8" DBH.

**6.2 Describe any follow-up or monitoring needed to determine if mitigation measures were effective.**

Annually patrol the transmission line by the line crew and the Natural Resource Specialist will periodically monitor the right-of-way for effective mitigation measures.

**7. PREPARE APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

**7.1 Describe any potential project impacts or project work that are different than those disclosed in the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program EIS. Describe how those differences impact natural resources and if the differences are "substantial".**

All proposed Danger tree cutting and chemical treatment activities on this corridor are noted in the EIS.

**7.2 Is there a need for additional NEPA documentation (i.e. Forest Service requirement, Record of Decision, supplemental EIS)? If so, attach.**

No